AL-VI-D-306

Luke Historic District

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the "vertical files" at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-22-2012

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

NR Eligible: yes X

Property Name: Luke Historic District Inventory Number: AL-VI-306 AL-VI-70-306
Address: Multiple properties along MD 135 City: Luke Zip Code:
County: Allegany USGS Topographic Map: Westernport. (WV)
Owner: Multiply owners
Tax Parcel Number: N/A Tax Map Number: N/A Tax Account ID Number: N/A
Project: AL674A21 Agency: State Highway Administration(SHA)
Site visit by SHA Staff: No X Yes Name: Liz Buxton Date: March, 2002
Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: A_X_B_X_CD Considerations:A_BC_D_E_F_GNone
Is the property located within a historic district? X no yes Name of district:
Is district listed? X Noyes Determined eligible?noyes District Inventory Number:
Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project review and compliance files
Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)
The Luke Historic District includes most of the town of Luke which is located along MD 135 in southern Allegany County just west of Westernport on the Potomac River. Luke is an intact company town that dates to the 1870's and includes 93 buildings and the present Westvaco Corporation Paper Mill complex.
First the site of a sawmill operated by Henry Gassaway Davis, Luke was known as West Pediment until the late 1890's. Davis, a West Virginia Senator and leading developer of the railroad, coal and timber industry, was responsible for the early development of Luke which originally consisted of a sawmill and 7 frame buildings along Pratt Street. West Piedmont was renamed in 1900 for the Luke family, a Scottish paper making family who bought the saw mill in 1881 from Davis and built and operated the Piedmont Pulp and Paper Company which employed 1000 employees by the turn of the century. The company constructed most of the housing in Luke as well as the Devon Club for its employees. The Company also donated land in 1913 for the present school. (See MIHP form for more detailed information on H.G. Davis and the Luke family)
The majority of the properties within the survey area represent typical frame company housing, most of which were built in the late 19 th - early 20 th century. There are a few examples of modest high-style buildings as seen at 322 Grant Street and 307 and 303\(\mathbf{g}\)-305 Pratt Street. Public buildings include a school at Grant Street and the Devon Club at 326 Pratt Street, both in the Neo-Classical style. There are no churches located in Luke.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW
Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended Criteria: XA B C D E F G None
Comments:
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services O4 29 02 Date
5/14/02
Reviewer, NR program Date

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

AL-VI-D-306

There are three individually surveyed historic properties located on Hanover Street associated with the Luke Family. They are: the Allen Luke House (Al-VI-D-216), the Luke Annex House, (AL-VI-D-217) and the Luke Frame House (Al-VI-D-218). Built in the Queen Anne Style, these three properties are located within the boundaries of the Luke Historic District and are contributing buildings. The original Luke Mill, (AL-IV-D-134), located southeast of MD 135 is also a contributing building to the Luke Historic District.

According to the MIHP form, the Luke Historic District is significant as an intact late 19th century company town as well as for its association with Henry Gassaway Davis and the Luke Family. The majority of the properties remain intact and have sufficient integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Luke Historic District meets Criteria A and C and is, therefore, considered eligible for the NRHP.

Prepared by:

Liz Buxton, SHA

Date Prepared: March 2002

ENTERED INTO DATABASE AS 03/01/2002



Westernport Quad



AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany County 2. Buxton March 2002 MD SHPO Looking east



AL-VI-D-306 Lake Historic District Allegany County L. Buxton March 2002 MD SHPO Looking West



AL-VI-D-306 Like Historic District Allegany County L. Buxton March 2002 MO SHPD Looking east



AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany County L Buxton March 2002 MD SHPO Looling North



AL-VI-0-30L 2nke Historic District Allegary County L. Buxton March 2002 MD SHPD Looking dorth 5/6



AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany County L. Buxton March 2002 MD SHAU Looking NE

Luke Historic District Luke Private

1880

The Luke Historic District includes the residential and industrial sections of Luke, Maryland, a small town of about 330 people situated in a narrow valley created by a sharp turn of the Potomac River 23 miles southwest of Cumberland, Md. Luke is typical of industrial company towns in that the industry is the focal point in the layout of the town and workers dwellings are located within walking distance of the factory. The district consists of 93 buildings, mostly frame company housing and the brick Westvaco Corporation paper mill complex.

The Luke Historic District is significant as an intact late 19th century company town, a rarity in Maryland. The district is also significant for its association with Henry Gassaway Davis and the Luke family. Davis, a politicaian and leading developer of railroads and the coal and timber resources of western Maryland, was responsible for the early development of Luke. The Lukes, a Scottish paper-making family, were responsible for the later development of the town which bears their name.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST AL-VI-D-306

MAGI #0112834628

NRD

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

AND/OR COMMON	storic District			
AND/OR COMMON				
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN			congressional distr	ICT
Luke		VICINITY OF	COUNTY COUNTY	
Maryla		A1	legany County	
CLASSIFICA'	TION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
Moistrict Building(s)	_PUBLIC PRIVATE	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
TOTAL STATE OF COMPANY	_BOTH	UNOCCUPIEDWORK IN PROGRESS	COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL	PARK ★PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	_RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT _	_IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
-	_BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	K INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATIO
OWNER OF P	PROPERTY	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
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NAME multiple		, 10° m² o.	elephone #:	ip code
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CONDITION

DETERIORATED

__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

Xunaltered Xaltered CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Luke Historic District includes the residential and industrial sections of Luke, Maryland, a small town of about 330 people situated in a narrow valley created by a sharp turn of the Potomac River 23 miles southwest of Cumberland, Md. Luke is typical of industrial company towns in that the industry is the focal point in the layout of the town and the workers' dwellings are located within walking distance of the factory. The district consists of 93 buildings, mostly frame company housing and the brick Westvaco Corporation paper mill complex. The residential area is situated on a hillside north of Pratt Street (Maryland Route 135) which runs east to west through the district. The paper mill and associated structures are located on the flat Potomac River flood plain south of Pratt Street. The Western Maryland Railway (CSX Corp.) tracks parallel Route 135 through the town, serving Westvaco and other nearby industries.

Except for expansion and moderization of the Westvaco plant, Luke, mainly due to geographical restrictions, has not changed significantly since the 1890's. There were 2 major periods of development, the 1870's—80's and the 1890's. During Luke's early period of development, 1872—1888, the town consisted of the Davis sawmill located on an island near the Maryland shore of the Potomac River and 7 frame buildings on Pratt Street and Cromwell Street.

In 1891 the Piedmont Pulp and Paper Company expanded the sawmill and related structures into a papermill operation. The new company extended their land area in the narrow valley by filling in land between the northern shore and the island and enlarging an existing impoundment dam. Additional company housing was built to meet the needs of the growing company on terraced streets that run parallel and rise above the main street, Pratt Street.

Early dwellings still stand on the north side of Pratt Street. Most of these company houses from the 1870-1880 period are frame, gabled roofed, 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, 3 bay by 1 bay, single detached dwellings or 4 bay by 2 bay duplexes based on the ell plan. (examples 325 and 321-3 Pratt St.) The majority are covered with weatherboards and a variety of sidings and rest on highstone foundations. Other early houses located on Cromwell Street were removed as the papermill expanded. A group of late 19thearly 20th century industrial buildings located at the eastern end of Cromwell Street were remove to make parking space.

The later development of Luke by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company is characterized by rows of identical frame duplexes located on Pratt Street, Fairview Street, Nevison Avenue, and Mullen Avenue. They are 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, 4 bay by 3 or 4 bay dwellings based on the "T" plan. (example 130-132 Mullen Ave.) They are covered with weatherboards which, in many cases, have been covered with other sidings and rest on high cement foundations, with the exception of about 10 hip-roofed houses and

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW							
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	Z COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION				
_1400-1499	XARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE				
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE				
1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN				
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER				
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION				
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	X_INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	XOTHER (SPECIFY)				

SPECIFIC DATES

1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Luke Historic District is significant as an intact late 19th century company town, a rarity in Maryland. The district is also significant for its association with Henry Gassaway Davis and the Luke Family. Davis, a politician and leading developer of railroads and the coal and timber resources of western Maryland was responsible for the early development of Luke. The Lukes, a Scottish paper-making family, were responsible for the later development of the town which bears their name.

History and Support The town of Luke was known as West Piedmont between 1872 and the late 1890's. It is located within close prox mity to the transportation centers of Westernport, Md. and Piedmont, W. Va., both of which experienced rapid growth during the mid-19th century. As early as 1810 a small gun factory was located with a mile west of Luke but prior to 1870 there seems to have been little activity at the site of the town. I

The early development of Luke was closely associated with the business enterprises of Henry Gassaway Davis. Davis was a U. S. Senator from West Virginia and the president and organizer of the West Virginia and Pittsburg Railroad Company (renamed the West Virginia Central Railroad Company), which with its subsiary, the Davis Coal and Coke Company, was the third largest producer of coal on the eastern seaboard 2 Davis was also the owner of thousands of acres of coal and timberland in western Maryland and West Virginia. By the early 1870's Davis recognized the potential value of the future site of Luke for its available waterpower and as an outlet for the coal and timber resources of the upper Potomac River valley. In 1872 he erected the Davis Sawmill at West Piedmont to produce crossties for railroad construction. Timber was floated downstream from Davis's timber lands at the headwaters of the Potomac to a boom built across the river in 1872.

In 1881 H. G. Davis organized the West Virginia and Pittsburg Railroad, of which he was president. The Elk Garden Branch of this company was laid through West Piedmont in 1881 . Davis laid out West Piedmont, a company town, adjacent to the Davis Sawmill and between 1875 and 1891 he owned 23 building lots on which at least 7 houses were built.

In 1888 the event having the most lasting impact upon the town occurred when a Scottish paper making family, the Lukes, chose West Piedmont as the site of a pulp and paper mill. The Lukes' company, the Piedmont Pulp

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Certificates of Incorporation Allegany County Land Records

Allegany County Tax Assessments, 1867-1922

"An Unofficial Historical Outline of the Westvaco Corporation," Westvaco Fine Papers Division, (undated.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10	GE	O	GF	RA	P	HI	CA	AL	D	A	TA	1
----	----	---	----	----	---	----	----	----	---	---	----	---

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Luke Historic District are indicated by the solid dotted line on the attached map. The borders of the district consist of back property lines of the streets and properties indicated.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

May 1982

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 21 State Circle, Shaw House

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:

Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

and 3 gambrel-roofed houses, the duplexes have gable roofs. Hip-roofed porches supported by wooden posts shelter their facades. Windows are simple 1/1 sash. Entrances are either paired in the center of the facade or located at opposite ends of the facade. Two brick chimneys are located in the center of the main block and the rear wing.

Several privately built houses in Luke, located on Fairview Street and Mullen Avenue, are built in a basic vernacular design, frame two story, 3 or 4 bay by one bay dwellings based on the ell plan. They rest on stone or cement foundations and have gabled roofs. (Example: 223 Fairview St.) Most of these houses have been substantially altered.

The affluence of Luke's industrial and commercial leaders is reflected in the high style, dimension and detail of their homes. Preeminent among these are the late 19th century residents built for the Luke family on Hanover Street. (AL-VI-D-216,217,218.) The three residences are similarly designed in a Queen Anne style, influenced by the angular and vertical lines of the Stick style. Their asymmetrical design is accentuated by rounded corner bay windows, towers, and offset entrances sheltered by small gables in the porch roofs. The weatherboard covered frame buildings have flanged bands of shingles dividing the first and second stories and shingles covering the gables. Chimneys are decoratively paneled and the eaves have simple brackets and fascis. A large carriage house, now used for storage, is located behind AL-VI-D-217. A swimming pool and tennis court on the southern side of the residences date from the 1930's.

Another example of housing found in Luke is the more modest high-style house as seen in 322 Grant St., and 307 and 303-305 Pratt Street. There are 3 Georgian Revival masonry dwellings, 241 and 429 Pratt Street and 115 Cromwell Street.

The single example of the neo-rationalistic style in Luke is the large Sigler House at 221 Cromwell Street which currently houses the offices of the Westvaco Corporation. The roughly square, $2\frac{1}{2}$ story building is constructed of cast concrete. The pyramidal roof and gabled dormers are common to the style.

The public buildings of Luke were designed in the revival styles popular in the early 20th century. The Devon Club at 326 Pratt Street is an example of the Renaissance Revival style. The 3 story, 3 bay by 6 bay concrete block building exhibits the symmetrical facade, cubic shape, quoining, entrance treatment, and belt courses characteristic of Renaissance Revival architecture. The Luke School, 316 Grant Street is an example of Neo-Classical architecture characteristic elements of this style in the school are the raised first floor and a projecting four columned and pedimented portico.

and Paper Company, was chartered in 1888 with its principal offices located in West Piedmont. In that year John G. Luke and David L. Luke, sons of the presidnet of the company William Luke, negotiated the purchase of the mill site with H. G. Davis 10 Within three years the Lukes had acquired most of Davis's property at West Piedmont including the Davis Sawmill. 11In 1889 a new mill was producing pulp, the raw material of a paper mill, using a "newly developed sulfite process." 12

Davis continued to exert an influence upon the growing community. Additional building lots were laid out by A.L. Findly in 1892 at the request of H. G.Davis. ¹³Taking advantage of the presence of a new and growing industry near his remaining property, Davis continued his building activities. In 1895 he conveyed a large tract of land to the Piedmont Pulp and Paper Company which was improved by five single dwellings and five double dwellings located on Pratt and Cromwell streets. It is likely that Davis's motives in his dealings with the Lukes were entirely speculative. The new mill enhanced the value of his building lots and created a new market for his timber and railroad businesses.

The Luke family, assuming the proprietary role of H. G. Davis, directed the continued development of the town during the 1890's and into the 20th century. The town was renamed Luke around the turn of the century. In 1891 the Lukes formed a second company, the West Virginia Paper Company, which immediately erected a paper mill at West Piedmont to process the pulp produced by the Piedmont Pulp and Paper Company usable paper. ¹⁶A description of this early operation lists "...nine separate structures with their annexes for the Pulp Mill and five more for the Paper Mill..."

The first paper was manufactured in January, 1892. The manial-colored paper was used for a mid-January, 1892 edition of the Piedmont Times, which described, the papermill as "...one of the largest of the kind in the United States..." which employed about 200 laborers. 18

In 1898-1899 the two companies incorporated into the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, which by 1909 employed 1000 laborers at the Luke mill. The company responded to its rapid growth by constructing duplex housing on Cromwell and Pratt streets and other housing on Fairveiw Street. Additional growth of the town occurred between 1910 and 1918 on Nevison Avenue and Mullen Avenue. $21\,$

In additon to housing, the company provided other benefits such as the Devon Club, built by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company in 1911 as a social club for male employees. The three story Neo-Classical building contained a library, cardroom, billiards, and bowling on the lower two floors. A large auditorium on the third floor was used for banquets, dances, and lectures given by nationally prominent figures.

In 1913, the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company donated land to the Allegany County Board of School Commissioners for the construction of Luke School. It replaced an earlier schoolhouse located on the corner of Pratt and Grant Street. 24

AL-VI-D-306

Luke Historic District

Footnotes

1

Town of Luke, Maryland: 50th Anniversary of Incorporation 1922 through 1972. (Luke: privately pulbished, 1972) p. 5-6

"The Glades Star, " No. 7, Vol. 2, September 30, 1951, p. 103 and John Alexander Williams, "The Bituminous Coal Lobby and the Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894" Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. 68, No. 3, Fall 1973, p. 273

³"The Glades Star" p. 102

Benjamin F. G. Kline, Jr., <u>Tall Pines and Winding Rivers</u> (Lancaster, Pa. 1976) p. 69.

5 Town of Luke Maryland p. 7 and "The Glades Star, " p. 103

6 The Glades Star, " p. 103

7 Tall Pines and Winding Rivers, p. 69 and Town of Luke, Maryland. p. 7.

8
Allegany County Tax Assessments, 1867-1875, District 4, p.112
and 1876-1895, District 8, p. 82.

9 Allegany County Certificates of Incorporation, Liber 1, folio 69

Luke Mill Report (Bicentennial Edition), (Public Relation Dept., Luke Mill = Luke, Md. 1976) p. 1

Allegany County Land Records, Liber 66, folio 296, and Allegany County Tax Assessments, 1876-1895, District 8, p. 82.

"An Unofficial Historical Outline of the Westvaco Corporation ," Westvaco Fine Papers Division, undated and unnumbered.

13 Allegany County Land Records, Liber 78, folio 381

14 <u>Ibid</u>.

Town of Luke, Maryland, p. 9

AL-VI-D-306 (continuation of footnotes)

- 16
 "Luke Mill Report" (Bicentennial Edition), p. 1, and
 "An Unofficial Historical Outline of the Westvaco Corporation."
 - Town of Luke, Maryland, p. 9
- 18 Quoted in "Elk Garden News, January 29, 1892, as reprinted in "Luke Mill Report (Bicentennial Edition.)
 - 19 "An Unofficial Historical Outline of the Westvaco Corporation."
- Allegany County Tax Assessments, 1876-1895, District 8, p. 82, and 1896-1909, District 8, p. 460 and p. 654. In 1907 the company owned 45 houses in Luke.
- 21
 <u>Ibid.</u>, 1910-1917, District 8, p. 452, and 1918-1922, District
 8. In 1918 the company owned 67 houses in Luke.
 - Town of Luke, Maryland, p. 20.
 - 23 Ib**i**d.
 - 24 Ibid., p. 18.

AL-VI-D-306 (continuation of #9, Bibliographical references)

The Glades Star, Oakland, Md., Garrett County Historical Society, No. 7, Vol. 2, September 30, 1951

Kline, Benjamin F. G. Tall Pines and Winding Rivers, Lancaster, Pa., 1976

Luke Mill Report (Bicentennial Edition), Public Relations Department, Luke Mill, Westvaco Corporation, 1976.

The Town of Luke Maryland: 50th anniversary of incorporation, 1922 through 1972. Luke, Md. 1972.

Williams, John Alexander, "The Bituminous Coal Lobby and the Wilson-Gorman Tariff of 1894" Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. 68, No. 3, Fall 1973

AL-VI-D-306 (continuation of # 10 Geographical date)

The boundaries of the Luke Historic District include the highest concentration of buildings or structures in the residential and industrial areas of Luke. Excluded are industrial sites at the eastern end of Cromwell Street now serving as parking lots and a small area at the eastern end of Pratt Street developed after the 1939 opening of Md. Route 135.

COMMISSIONERS — 1922 thru 1974

Fred Wiseman, 1922-1932 A. H. Hutchinson, 1922-1925* J. H. Miller, 1925-1932 (Completed Hutchinson's Term) H. O. Failing, 1922-1930 Victor S. Kalbaugh, 1922-1934 John Cox, 1930-1932 William B. Smith, 1932-1934 James Donahoe, 1932-1934, 1936-1939* William H. Smith, Sr., 1939-1940 (Completed Donahoe's Term) L. L. Oates, 1932-1934 Ed Ack, Sr., 1934-1936 J. Edward Duckworth, 1936-1956 Robert Stump, 1934-1936, 1938-1955 (Resigned) Leo Cave, 1955-56 (completed Stump's Term) 1970-1974 William Neff, 1934-1936 Walter Funkhouser, 1934-1936 Jack Cave, 1936-1938 Thomas Dawson, 1938-1940 (Resigned) J. G. Luke, 1940 (Completed Dawson's Term) 1940-1950

Harry Dawson, 1940-1956
Milton Sively, 1950-1956
Kenneth Wilcox, 1956-1964
Thomas J. Haywood, 1956-1962
Luther Crites, Sr., 1956-1966, 1972-**
Avelino Diaz, 1956-1958
William H. Smith, Jr., 1958-1960, 1962-1974
Sextus Hitt, 1960-1964
John A. Dick, 1964-1972
Charles Mitter, 1964-1968
Roland Nofsinger, 1966-1970
Gladys E. Gift, 1968-1972, 1974-**
Harold C. Bradley, Sr., 1972-**
Timothy C. Mitter, 1974-**

(*Died during their term of office) (**Present Commissioners of Town)

After the official incorporation of the Town of Luke, a preliminary meeting was held on October 3, 1922, at which time Thomas J. Haywood was nominated and appointed Clerk. He served in this position for 22 years.



The next school (pictured below), a tworoom, frame structure, was built on a lot located on the corner of Grant Street and Pratt Street. It housed eight grades with high school pupils attending the Westernport High School.

When this school proved too small, a new brick building was constructed on ground donated by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. The new school opened in September, 1913. Later an addition, consisting of two rooms, auditorium, and basement was built, thus making six classrooms.

In 1933, a library was established and in 1938, the Luke School ranked as one of the most progressive in Allegany County. With an eight-grade system, it had an enrollment of more than 200.

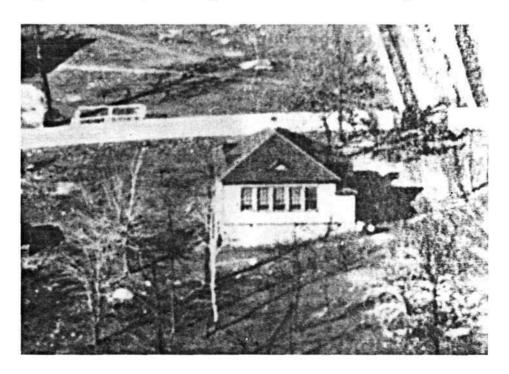
For a time the school published a paper called "The Sentinel." It also had many outstanding annual events, one being the May Day Festival in which every student participated.

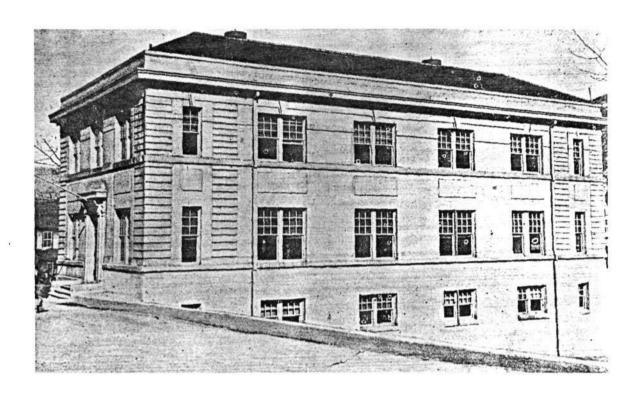
Principals of this school during its 46-year existence were:

Arch Perdew 1913-1917 William G. Fatkin 1918-1954 Florence Liller 1954-1959

In 1959, the school closed and in September of the same year children of Luke were transferred to either Westernport Elementary or Bruce High School for classes.

The Town of Luke purchased the building from the Allegany County School Board in November, 1959. Town business is now conducted within this building. Besides housing Council and Police Department offices, the Luke Volunteer Fire Company uses one room for its meetings and keeps two of its fire vehicles in a garage connected to the building.





Devon Club

The Devon Club, a three-story building, was opened on March 23, 1911. It was built by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company for the use of its employees as a Social Center.

The Devon Club organized a baseball team in 1912, that consisted of Bob Stump, Hurk Dancer, John Jack, Jr., Willis McCombs, Ernie White, Bill Stump, Al Zimmerman, Arthur Whitworth, George Sluss, Tom Galloway, manager of the Devon Club.

Regarded strictly as a Men's club with the exception of affairs which were held for both men and their wives, it contained a

library, card rooms, billiards, bowling, a refreshment counter, and a huge auditorium on the top floor with a stage.

Huge dances and banquets were held and men of note appeared in a series of programs. Noted national writers, poets, legal lights, scientists, political figures, and humorists provided entertainment.

After the discontinuance of these programs a motion picture theatre was placed in the auditorium. Due to lack of interest the theatre closed March 30, 1960.

At present the Devon Club still provides the community with a reading room, billiards, bowling, and a refreshment counter. eel, he t, and g stick

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THE

Glades



Star

PUBLISHED BY

THE GARRETT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NO. 7, VOL. 2

OAKLAND, MARYLAND

SEPTEMBER 30, 1951

DEER PARK, MARYLAND

By MRS. FRANCES COMP

Deer Park District No. 10, of Garrett County extends from Backbone Mountain northwest across the valley of Little Youghiogheny Creek. The village of Deer Park is pleasantly situated 2,600 feet above sea level on the north side of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and on the Oakland-Bloomington section of the state highway.



OLD DEER PARK SCHOOL AND LUTHERAN CHURCH

About the time Indian hunters and buffalo herds ceased coming into the Glades Country Lord Baltimore opened his lands "Westward of Fort Cumberland," for settlement. On April 14, 1774 land speculators had two adjoining tracts of land surveyed on the route of the Old Glades Path: "Peace and Plenty," 1,500 acres, for Anthony Stewart. The present town of Deer Park is located on an edge of the Deer Park tract, which was doubtless so named because of the deer which abounded in the neighborhood. Baltimore's property in Maryland was confiscated during the Revolutionary War by the State, which finally in 1786 issued patents to Thomas Johnson for "Peace and Plenty," and to Charles Stewart and James McCullough for "Deer Park." In the Maryland Journal of October 6, 1789, Daniel Jenifer, George Scott and Gen. John Swan gave notice that they intended to apply to the General

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Garrett County Historical Society

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THE GLADES STAR

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MEMBERSHIP: All persons interested in the Garrett County area are eligible to membership in the GCHS. Membership fees: Regular, \$2.00; Life, \$20.

NOTE: The Editors wish to thank Mrs. Patrick J. Garrett, Robert B. Garrett, Felix G. Robinson, Mrs. Belle Marley, Michael Madigan, and all others, especially Mrs. Frances Comp, for their cooperation in the preparation of this issue of The Glades Star. Mrs. Comp is a Deer Park teacher and a granddaughter of the late patriarch, George Marley.

County and municipal librarians from throughout Maryland met on 30, 1949-Garrett, a new county-Library.

G. C. H. S. MEETING

Election of Officers first Thursday in December at William James Hotel.

Officers

Committee—B. Nominating Aiken, chairman; Mrs. Smouse, Oakland, Md.: B. I. Gonder,

Markers of Veterans Graves Committee-Northern Section-John Elliott, chairman; Harvey Gortner. Daniel W. Hershberger, George Coddington.

Markers of Veterans Graves Committee—Southern Section-William Casteel, chairman; Earl Selders, Ward Hinebaugh, Edward Kahl.

\$2.00 Contributions

Mrs. Tee Sanders, George F. Fratz, Miss Althiec Fratz, John L. Fratz. Henry J. Bittner, Mr. A. W. Wilt. Miss E. Ruth Rudisell.

Histories, \$17.00.

Assessment for \$1.00 sent to Mrs. Rathbun:

(Miss) Lucretia Boucher, Cumberland, Maryland.

(Miss) Ethel Broadwater, Grantsville, Maryland.

Olene Broadwater, Akron, Ohio.

(Miss) Viola Broadwater, Grantsville, Md.

Miss Leslie Bishoff, Dorothy Brock, Charles F. Cook, Luella K. Hoye, Clarence Mersing, Charles J. Emmet, Lewis Jones, Glen Broadwater, Elizabeth west.

The Centennial History of Oakland contains 104 pages and more than 100 pictures. If interested in Garrett County history you should own a copy. It is very suitable for a gift. Copies may be obtained from the Ruth Enlow librarian or by mail from Mrs. F. E. Rathbun, secretary, Oakland, Maryland, for \$1.00 postpaid.

Error in Glades Star, No. 34, June September 13-14 at the Ruth Enlow 1872. Census enumerator, District No. 3. Charles Bill (not Charles Bell.)

HENRY GASSAWAY DAVIS The Grand Old Man of West Virginia



The leader in the building of the West Virginia Central Railroad and in the development of the timber and coal resources of the upper Potomac Valley was the Hon. Henry G. Davis. He was the founder of Deer Park, where he resided in summer for many years. Henry G. Davis was a descendant of Thomas Davis, a Welsh immigrant to Maryland in 1688. The father was Caleb Davis, who married Louise Warfield Brown in 1819. Their children were John B., Elizabeth, Henry G., Eliza Ann, Thomas B., and William R. Davis. Henry was born November 16, 1823, in Baltimore. It interest to note that as a child of five years he attended with his pare. the historic

ceremony of laying the first stone of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad on July 4, 1828, near Baltimore.

Caleb Davis was a prosperous Baltimore business man, but he lost money on construction contracts for the B. and O. railroad; his property was sold to pay debts; his health failed. Mrs. Davis opened a school for girls, and supported the family, with such assistance as the children could give. Henry attended school only one year, but his mother taught him at home. In his fourteenth year, he began work as a water boy at the Woodstock stone quarry. At nineteen, young Davis became a brakeman on the B. and O. railroad; he was soon promoted to freight conductor.

In 1853, two years after the construction of the B. and O. across the mountains, Henry G. Davis married Katherine Anne Bantz of Frederick. He sought and obtained the position of station agent at Piedmont, Va., in order to be in a favorable position to take advantage of the opportunities which he saw would come from the development of the timber and coal resources of this region. At the foot of the 17-mile grade, and site of the railroad shops, Piedmont was an important station, but in 1853 it had only eight or ten frame houses. It was the home of the Davis family for many years, Henry living alone in a freight car the first year. In 1854 Mrs. Davis inherited a substantial sum from her father.

Mr. Davis continued as station agent and supervisor of motive power at Piedmont for four years, but at the same time he engaged in private enterprises in partnership with his brother Thomas. Later their brother William joined the company. In 1858 Henry resigned his railroad position and gave all his time to the partnership.

H. G. Davis and Company operated a general store in Piedmont, but its principal business was supplying the railroad company with ties and lumber, and shipping coal. In 1858 the company established the Piedmont Savings Bank, H. G. Davis, president.

When the Civil War broke out H. G. Davis and Company was the principal business concern in the upper Potomac Valley. The company supplied the Union army with lumber and horses at a good profit. By the close of the war it possessed ample capital, some of which was invested in thousands of acres of timber land in what is now Garrett County, and in West Virginia. Part of the old Deakins patent at the headwaters of the Potomac, covered by a fine pine forest and underlaid with coal, was purchased for fifty cents an acre from the John Hoye estate.

Henry G. Davis traveled this territory on foot and horseback. His bronze monument in Elkins represents him astride his favorite horse. On October 1, 1880 he wrote in his journal; "Mr. Elkins, Mr. Randolph, Tom and myself made a trip to Elk Garden to examine our coal and other property, and the best way for our railroad and inclined plane to go and take out the big vein and other coal."

Under date of July 5, 1881, he wrote: "Mr. Elkins and myself leave Deer Park on horseback to examine country around and about Fairfax Stone; also on backwater of Cheat River. We find the timber very fine; some cherry and ash; mostly spruce and hemlock. Coal indications very good, several veins open, one near Dobbin House of almost eight feet pure coal. We stay at Dobbins House over night; no one lives there. We had blankets with us; made pillows out of our saddles; gone three days. . . . Parsons is now making survey for our road near or in this region."

Davis was early interested in developing transportation in the Upper Potomac Valley and the country beyond in West Virginia, a wilderness of timber, underlaid with coal, very sparsely populated. In 1872 his company built a boom across the river above Piedmont to impound logs floated down the stream to its large mill on the Maryland shore. It is said that Senator Davis secured an appropriation from Congress to remove obstructions in the river and to build dams to improve navigation. This means of transportation was soon abandoned in favor of a railroad.

In 1865 the Potomac and Piedmont Coal and Railroad Company was chartered, "which was to become the basis of Mr. Davis' most important railroad enterprise."

The West Virginia and Pittsburgh Railroad Company was organized in 1881 with Henry G. Davis as president, and on October 19, 1881, the line was opened from Piedmont to Shaw. In 1884 track laying was completed to Davis and the road reached Elkins in 1889.

In the heart of this region on the plateau was laid out the town of Davis and the road reached Elkins in 1889.

"In the heart of this region on the plateau was laid out the town of Davis, which at one time was selected as the terminal of the railroad. Later this plan was abandoned, and a branch line was run from the main stem at the station at Thomas, where were located the coke ovens."

Mr. Davis named the stations on the new railway for officers and stockholders of the company: Senators James G. Blaine, Arthur P. Gorman, Thomas F. Bayard, James B. Chaffee, J. W. Camden, William Windom, and capitalists August Schell, William H. Barnum, John A. Hambleton, Major Alexander Shaw, and Thomas for his brother, Thomas P. Davis.

The road became known as the West Virginia Central railroad and in order not be entirely dependent on the B. and O. for an outlet it was extended to the Pennsylvania at Cumberland.

POLITICAL CAREER

In 1865 Henry G. Davis was elected from Hampshire County to the West Virginia House of Delegates, and in 1868 to the state senate. He served two terms in the U. S. Senate, 1871 to 1883. In November, 1882, Senator Davis wrote: "Business is more agreeable to me than politics, and I am now engaged in lumbering, mining, banking and farming . . . I am constructing a railroad running north and south through an undeveloped region rich in mineral, timber and agricultural wealth, and intend when completed to connect with the B & O and C & O railroads."

On March 4, 1883, Mr. Davis wrote: "My second term in the U. S. Senate ended yesterday. I declined a reelection . . . I intend to devote most of my time to interests of the West Va. Central Co., both building road, mining and selling coal."

Nevertheless, his interest in politics continued; he was a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions, and in 1904 was nominated for Vice President on the ticket with Alton B. Parker. He was a conservative Democrat.

DAVIS AT DEER PARK

Mr. Davis bought an extensive area of farm and forest land at Deer Park and built a spacious summer cottage near the village. He and Mrs. Davis moved into the cottage in the spring of 1867 and occupied it in summer until 1892 when they moved to Elkins. Their winters were spent in Washington. At Deer Park they entertained presidents, senators, and other noted personages.

Mr. Davis was much interested in his farm at Deer Park. Henry Sisk was farm foreman and Michael Madigan one of the employees. He opened

90

a general store in the village, operated by Dodd Graham.

On Deep Creek near the present dam the large Davis saw mill was built, from which lumber was hauled over a 12-mile wooden tramway thru the Sand Flat gap to the lumber yard at Deer Park. Stemple and Casteel built a connecting tramway across Deep Creek to their saw mill on Meadow Mountain Run. Each lumber car was drawn by a four-mule team called a "string team"-one mule ahead of the other-on a sort of tow path. The senior Mr. Thrasher was one of the tram drivers.

Near his cottage, within a 20-acre enclosure, a six-foot pailing fence, Mr. Davis kept about thirty deer, most of them caught by William Mason of the North Glade during a heavy February snow storm.

Henry G. Davis was a wealthy man of business; also a public benefactor. In 1891, he gave \$10,000 for a school at Piedmont. Davis and Elkins College at Elkins, built in 1903, was in part constructed by Davis and Senator Elkins. and the former left it an endowment of \$100,000. Henry and his brother Thomas built the Presbyterian church at Elkins as a memorial to their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Davis gave Elkins a hospital in 1902 and Davis and Elkins gave the city a park.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis were the parents of eight children, three of whom died in infancy. The others were Hallie, Henry, Kate, Grace, John. Hallie married Stephen B. Elkins. Henry was lost at sea. John is said to have been very dissipative.

Mr. Davis died in 1902 in Elkins. Mr. Davis died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Elkins, in Washington, February 1916. They are interred in the family grave yard at Elkins.

Senator Thomas F. Bayard on June 23, 1890, wrote Mr. Davis: "It is a just cause of pride to you, and will be to your children that you have left the sunlight of civilization and prosperity in upon a region so secluded by its rugged natural features." T. Jay in the Oakland Republican wrote of Mr. Davis: "All his millions were acquired through his good judgment, industry and uniform courtesy and kindness."

DEATHS

Charles Albert Ashby, born at Crellin, July 25, 1867, died in Memorial hospital, Cumberland, August 19, 1951.

Charles Ashby was a merchant in Crellin, Mt. Lake Park, and Deer Park. He was Crellin's first postmaster, member of the House of Delegates and county commissioner of Garrett County.

John Archibald Connell, 97, died County Memorial Hospital. August 20, 1951. He was a native of Hutton.

home in "ton.

McClelhan D. Harvey died Saturday, August 11, at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. Okey Junkins, of near Oakland.

John Jacob Ream died suddenly August 26 while attending church service in the Pine Grove Church.

Amos H. Reckner, 89, of near Bittinger, died August 2 in Garrett

Miss Viola Broadwater is donating Mrs. Lavina B. Lewis, aged 89, died a momento from the Executive man-Sunday evening, August 26, at her sion, Washington, D. C., to the G. C. H. S.

Wilbur C. Jones. Deer Park Merchant

Wilbur Clark Jones was a native of Fayette County, Penna., where he was born August 2, 1849. He attended private and public schools near his home, and also for a short time was a student at Mt. Union College, Alliance, Ohio. He engaged in teaching in Pennsylvania and in Preston County, W. Va., in the winter and cattle buying in the summer.

He first visited Garrett County in 1876 while enroute to the Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia. A wreck on the railroad delayed the train for several hours at the Deer Park Hotel grounds. At that time only the central section of the hotel building had been erected but he was impressed by the beauty of the surroundings. In 1883, he came to Deer Park and after teaching for a short while purchased a half interest in a general mercantile business from the late Jackson Rodeheaver. The business formerly had been conducted by Chidester and Rodeheaver but the latter had purchased the share of his partner and operated alone until the firm of Rodeheaver and Jones was formed, In 1886, Mr. Jones bought out his partner and thereafter until 1924 conducted the business under his own name, also engaging in the lumber business.

Always active in civic affairs, he was a member of the Deer Park village council and served one term as mayor. For many years he was a member of every Republican county convention. He served as a member of the District Board of Education, was a trustee of the Methodist Church and served many years as teacher and superintendent of the Sunday School, He was an active member of the church for 74 years. On May 1, 1884. he was married to Olive Belle Forman of Crab Orchard, Preston Co., W. Va., who died in 1923. Seven children were can Revolution.

born, two of whom are Attorney Ray Jones. Oakland, and C. A. Jones. Columbus, Ohio. He died in Columbus, Ohio, September 24, 1940, aged 91



CHARLES A. JONES

Charles A. Jones, brother of E. Rav Jones, of Oakland, is serving his third year as president of the Franklin County, Ohio, Historical Society. He was one of the founders of this Society which has almost two thousand members. Mr. Jones has been a resident of Columbus for many years. holding positions of importance in the political, civic and religious life of the State. His father was Wilbur C. Jones, for more than forty years a merchant at Deer Park.

He is a collector of Lincolniana and has one of the larger private collections on this subject in Ohio.

He is also secretary-treasurer of the Ohio Society, Sons of the Ameri-

AN UNOFFICAL HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF WESTVACO CORPORATION

(FORMERLY WEST VIRGINIA PULP AND PAPER)
AND ITS LUKE MILL

- The Piedmont Pulp and Paper Company of Allegany County, Md., original name of the present company, was granted a charter and certificate of incorporation, dated October 18, 1888, with authorized capital of \$100,000 and William Luke as president. First meeting of the stockholders was held at Harpers Ferry, W. Va., October 27, and the purchase authorized of a mill site on Davis Island in the middle of the Potomac River at West Piedmont (now Luke, Md.). Negotiations for the mill site had been made previously by William Luke's sons, John G. and David L. Luke.
- Mill laid out by David L. Luke and operations began in July producing pulp by the newly developed sulfite process primarily from spruce wood and were confined to the manufacture of unbleached (manila) stock until May 1893. Capacity was 40,000 lbs. daily. Sixty persons were employed.
- A second company was organized September 8 under the title of West Virginia Paper Company, incorporated under the laws of West Virginia and operated a separate paper mill alongside the pulp mill from whom they secured their pulp. Nos. 1 and 2 paper machines installed (92-inch wire).
- No. 3 paper machine installed. Production was 15 tons per day of manila wrapping paper. A third company organized under the title of the West Virginia Pulp Company on September 9 to erect and operate a spruce sulfite pulp mill at Davis, Tucker County, W. Va. It occupied 10 acres, employed 75 persons and produced 35 tons of pulp a day. Paper product at the West Piedmont mill changed from manila to book grade.
- 1894 Office opened in the Mutual Reserve Building, New York City, in May. Paper products are now: railroad, wrapping, manila, express, hardware parchment, and book. Total employees in the pulp and paper mills are 275. Capacity of the paper mill is 20 tons a day.
- 1896 Nos. 4 and 5 paper machines installed.
- West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company of West Virginia organized and incorporated for the purpose of consolidating the three earlier companies.
- 1898 The three earlier companies formally dissolved on April 26.
- On July 14 the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company of Delaware was organized and incorporated. (This existed concurrently with the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company of West Virginia until consolidated with the Delaware Corporation on September 20, 1909.)

Timber tracts purchased at Cass and at Spruce, W. Va., for the production of pulpwood, lumber and coal.

A sulphite pulp and paper mill built at Covington, Va.

The Morrison & Cass Paper Co. at Tyrone, Pa., is acquired.

Covington, Va., mill starts operation with 300 employees and rated production of 15,000 tons of pulp and 7,500 tons of paper per year.

902 - Rebuilding of the pulp mill at Davis, W. Va., completed, doubling its capacity.

Sulphite pulp replaced by soda process.

- The mill of the Duncan Paper Co., Mechanicville, N. Y., is purchased with its four paper machines and production of sulphite and soda pulp.

Nos. 6 and 7 paper machines installed.

- The pulp and two-machine paper mill of the Williamsburg Paper Manufacturing Co., Williamsburg, Pa., purchased.

Coating mill erected at Luke.

Bleach plant built at Luke and operated by the Industrial Chemical Company.

- 1907 First coated paper shipped.
- 1908 Cass Timberlands now total 50,000 acres.
- The West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company of West Virginia assets, etc., conveyed to the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company of Delaware on September 20. Total employees now are: Luke, 1,000; Mechanicville, 1,000; Tyrone, 700; Williamsburg, 500; Covington, 400; and Davis, 250.
- The Industrial Chemical Company (a wholly-owned subsidiary), handling chemical by-products, was incorporated.

Devon Club built by William G. Luke as a gift to mill employees and families.

First research laboratory of the company started in New York City.

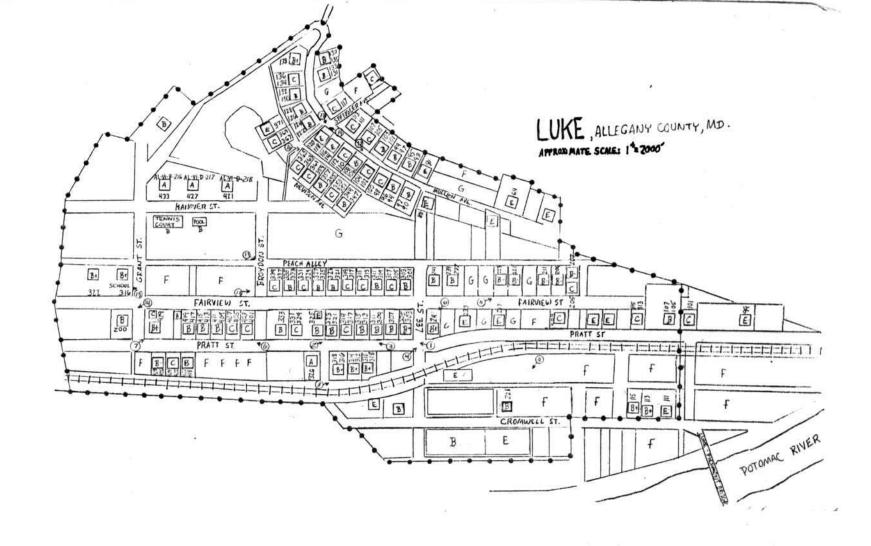
1912 - Construction of Stony River Dam started.

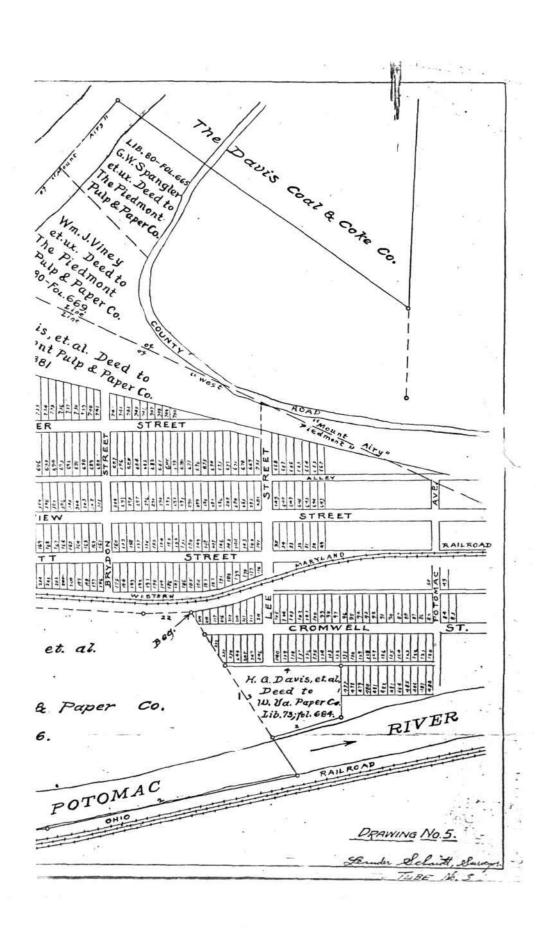
First rotary lime kiln ordered.

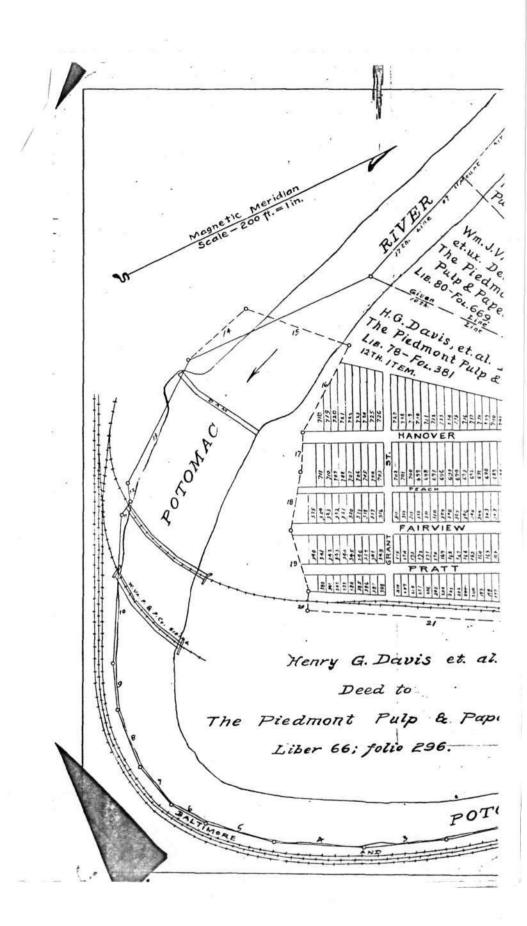
- 1913 Stony River Dam completed in Grant County, W. Va., 45 miles upstream from Luke. Capacity 1.8 billion gallons.
- Wireless telephone system being used between the Luke mill and the new dam, one of the first private wireless systems in the country. The dam caretaker would not learn the code or accept the "gadget" and the idea was abandoned.

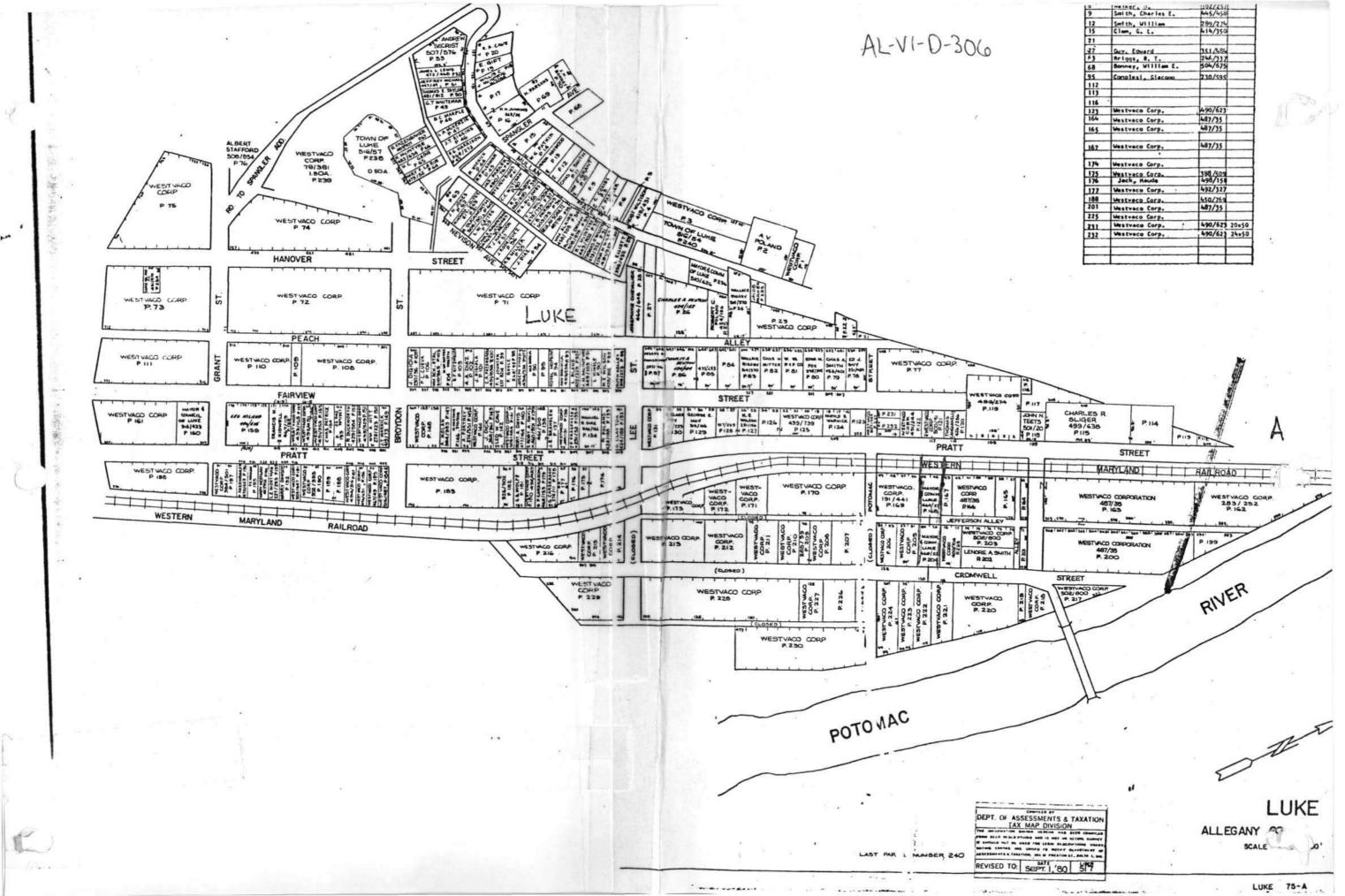
Devon Coal Mine opened one-half mile up river to supply coal to the Luke mill.

- 1919 Davis, W. Va., pulp mill closed and dismantled.
- 1924 Devon Coal Mine closed down.
- 1927 Nos. 6 and 7 paper machines rebuilt.
- 19 ____ Tanning extract plant at Cass closed down.
- 1929 Construction of a 12 mgd water filtration plant started. Completed and in operation in 1930.









WESTERNPORT (
WEST VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES

NE/4 ELK GARDEN





Westernport, MD:WV USGS 7.5 Minute Series Scale 1:24,000 1950; photorevised 1974 AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Luke, Md.

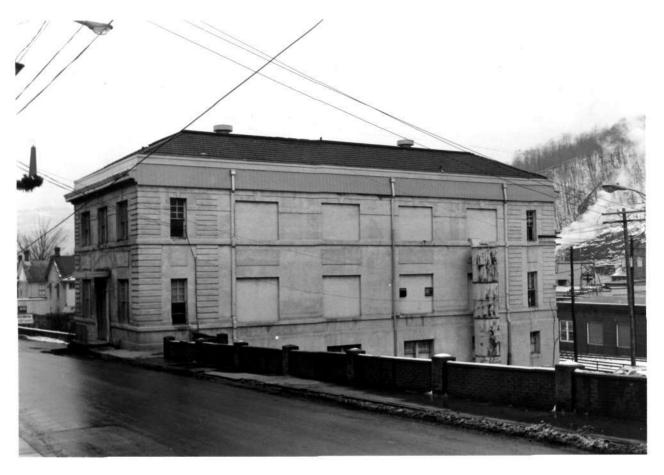


AL-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany County, MD
David A. Dorsey 12/81 looking W
photo #1, streetscape, 303-323





AL-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany Co., MD
David A. Dorsey 1/82 looking E
#2 streetscape 313-323 Pratt St.



A1-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany Co., MD 1/82
D.Dorsey #5, 326 Pratt St.
326 Pratt St, looking E

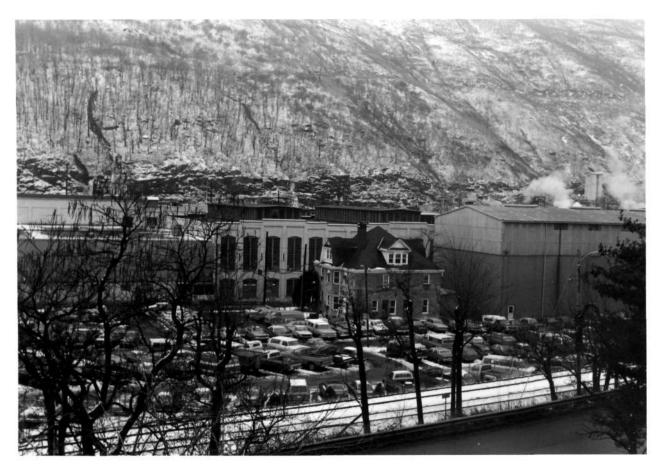


AL-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany Co., MD
David A. Dorsey 12/81 looking W
#6, streetscape 401-419 Pratt St.





AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany Co., MD 1/82 D.Dorsey #8, streetscape, 308-318 Cromwell St., looking east



AL-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany Co., MD 1/82
D. Dorsey streetscape, Cromwel
St. looking south #9



AL-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany Co., MD 1/82
D. Dorsey #11, streetscape, 205
223, Fairview St. looking east



(12)

AL-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany Co., MD 1/82
D. Dorsey #12, streetscape
Fairview St., looking east





AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany Co., MD 12/81 D. Dorsey #13, streetscape, Fairview St., looking SE





AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany Co., MD 12/81 D. Dorsey #15, Luke School south elevation



AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany Co., MD 12/81 D.Dorsey #16, Streetscape 106-116, Mullen Avenue, looking E



AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany Co., MD 10/81 D.Dorsey #17, streetscape, 90-104 Mullen Ayenue, looking NE



(18)

AL-VI-D-306
Luke Historic District
Allegany Co., MD 10/81
D. Dorsey #18, streetscape, 98120, Mullen Avenue, looking SE



19)

AL-VI-D-306 Luke Historic District Allegany Co., MD 10/81 D. Dorsey #19, Streetscape 122-136 Mullen Ayenue, looking W